

nothing but a poor stupid cooly. I have no learning, no rank, no silver, but in my heart's center I have an unable-to-speak-it-out joy." The poor heathen in China as well as the poor heathen of Canaan had prevailed in prayer.

The right to pray belongs to the human race, and for the sole reason that they are God's children. We are not to suppose that some accident of birth or condition bestows upon us this privilege. Wherever there is a human soul there is God also. Did not Cornelius's prayers go up to God? and yet Cornelius was a heathen. Did not Nineveh pray and turn to God? and yet Nineveh was an outside, licentious, darkened, pagan city, whose religion was idolatry, and offensive to Israel.—E. S. Tead.

A COMPUTATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS

A statistical view of Sunday schools in the United States, prepared by the American Sunday School Union, estimating the total population in 1896 as 70,505,321, calculates the number of children and youth between 5 and 18 years of age to be 20,865,377, for whom they are 132,639 Sunday schools. It being impossible to determine the number of those who attend no Sunday school, an estimate is made that 11,500,000 of the youth are nonattendants and receive no biblical instruction, while 1,500,000 are supposed to attend Roman Catholic and other Sunday schools not represented in the tables. The highest percentage of attendance appears to belong to Delaware, a little more than one fourth of the population going to Sunday school; while Maryland, North Carolina, and Oregon follow. In Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and New Jersey about one fifth attend, and in New England somewhat less than one fifth; and the lowest proportions of attendance are in New Mexico, Alaska, Utah, Louisiana, Arizona, and Mississippi. In Kentucky 800 churches of one denomination are represented as being without any Sunday school. A Chinese Sunday school has been undertaken in New England; 1,000 schools have been organized by the Union in Tennessee, and 11 of its agents working in the Rocky Mountain region last year gathered 6,600 pupils into the Sunday schools.

Our Bible School

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

THE PROPHETS—JOEL

I. Biography.

- Son of Pethuel, Joel 1:1.
- Prophesied in the kingdom of Judah, Joel 2:1.
- A plague of locusts and a drouth the occasion of his prophecy, Joel 1:4, 20.
- Speaks fearlessly to his people of their sins, Joel 1:2, 14; 2:12, 13.
- Denounced the oppressors of God's people, Joel 3:1-8.
- His words quoted by Peter, Acts 2:16-21.

II. Life Lessons.

- Even temporal calamities are the results of sin. Deut. 28:1-6 and 15-20.
- God wants heart-penitence rather than clothes-penitence, Joel 2:13; Matt. 6:16-18.
- Oppression and unrighteousness either in church members or sinners will be punished, Joel 3:19; Ex. 34:6, 7.
- Joel helped the people to escape from their calamities by telling them the cause, Joel 3:20, 21.

Would he have been a true prophet otherwise?

J. L. GILLIN.

The Mission Field

MISSIONARY READING CIRCLE

COURSE OF READING

First Year	Cloth	Paper
1. Crisis of Missions—(Piereson.)	\$1 06	29
2. Armenian Amphitheater.		09
3. Do Not Say.		09
4. Our Country.	51	25
5. Life of Sammy Morris.		10
6. Choice Extracts—(Meyer.)		05
		87

The books, together with other literature, such as circulars giving full particulars how and why to organize and read, description of books, etc., can be had by addressing Rev. C. F. Yoder, Warsaw, Ind. Circles should be organized in every congregation.

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Each member of the Board is the Secretary for the District which he represents and is supposed to look after the interests of the mission work in his territory. All pledges and money should be sent to the general Secretary, J. C. Cassel, 709 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

OUR CHICAGO LETTER

QUITE A DIFFERENCE

On Sunday morning last, our neighbor on the south side of us, a merchant, spent the morning moving; on the north of us the saloon keeper was repairing his sign, while at the mission religious services were held, and that is about the way it goes, the world, the flesh and the devil hard at work and here and there a little band, working for God, and Christ and humanity.

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING

Yesterday a woman came running to us saying, "Oh can't you do something for my baby?" We went with her and found the little thing just coming out of a spasm, the danger was over for the time and we could only encourage the mother and point her to the Lord as the great helper. I have thought since of the words: "Oh can't you do something." How many are perishing and nothing is being done. Rescue the perishing says Christ; too expensive answer back so many. Can't you do something for poor, suffering, bleeding, dying humanity?

THE NORTH SIDE

During the past week I could not get over and one of the Moody boys helped me out, which help is appreciated. Here is a little cluster that might be well developed if it is cared for. I have called attention to this point, and wish that you might care for it, a work will not run itself and grease is needed to make things run smooth, rent must be paid, our folks have done well, and the Sunday school is going along nicely under the care of brother Frank Keowne.

OUR MISSIONARY LANTERN

When in use it will do more for missions than any agent I have yet put into operation. I have put my mind on securing one thousand dollars for the cause, to be used as the circumstances point and the Lord directs. This sum can be raised and I have no doubt that those who help will be pleased at the investment made, all of whom I will name soon as the matter is completed. I need about forty dollars yet to make the completion, and would not ask for it if I had money of my own, but it is lacking. This leads me to speak of

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

I have always been frank with my church and never hesitate to tell you all. Now just bear with me while I tell you the situation here. In January I received nothing from the Mission Board, and only a few cents over forty dollars from other sources; in February I received sixty dollars from the Mission Board and thirteen dollars and sixteen cents from other sources. In March so far I have received fifty dollars from the Mission Board and five dollars and nine cents from other sources. Eighty-four dollars for rent, nearly ten dollars for gas, then there are the coal and living expenses and numerous little details demanded in a work like this. I have received a total of one hundred and sixty-eight dollars since Jan. 1, and my expenses will run nearly if not over three hundred by April 1. What would you do under such circumstances? These bills must be met.

PEOPLE WHO HELP

The January report was published with money that was paid to Cassel, since reporting the forty dollars and twenty-five cents to him. I have received from Earl and Grace Rowland, 42 cents; H. Drenner, \$5.00; K. C. S., Mexico, \$2.50; rebate on coat, \$1.02; S. S. C. E., Gravelton, Ind., \$3.00; H. Weitz, \$1.00; collections, \$2.81; from South Bend at Christmas was received \$2.50 which was overlooked. Brother Morton who had charge of my correspondence, failing to acknowledge receipt. We thank our Gravelton friends for a barrel of provisions and clothing, and a box of clothing from Lansdale, Pa., all of whom have our thanks for the help. Our relief work has practically ceased. The spring is opening, and I presume henceforth that kind of work will be over. It is a good work, and while it has its hardships and exposures and unthankful and unappreciated